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NIXON BOOK

BY HARRY KELLY

WASHINGTON, MARCH 21 (AP)—ALLEN W. DULLES, FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, SAYS RICHARD M. NIXON WAS IN ERROR WHEN HE CHARGED THAT PRESIDENT KENNEDY HAD BEEN BRIEFED DURING THE 1960 CAMPAIGN ON CUBAN INVASION PREPARATIONS.

DULLES SAID, HOWEVER, HE BELIEVED THE CHARGE--CONTAINED IN NIXON'S NEW BOOK, "SIX CRISES"--WAS THE RESULT OF "AN HONEST MISUNDERSTANDING."

NIXON CONTENDED KENNEDY HAD BEEN TOLD THE CIA WAS HELPING TO TRAIN CUBAN REBELS FOR AN INVASION AND HAD JEOPARDIZED THE PLAN IN CAMPAIGN ORATORY.

THE WHITE HOUSE DENIED THIS YESTERDAY, SAYING KENNEDY KNEW NOTHING OF THE INVASION PREPARATIONS UNTIL AFTER HE WAS ELECTED AND THAT NIXON'S "ACCOUNT IS APPARENTLY BASED ON A MISUNDERSTANDING."

WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY PIERRE SALINGER SAID DULLES HAD TWICE BRIEFED KENNEDY DURING THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE BUT THAT THE BRIEFINGS CONSISTED MAINLY OF A BROAD REVIEW OF THE WORLD SITUATION.

IN A MEMORANDUM YESTERDAY, DULLES SAID:

"THERE HAS BEEN HERE, I BELIEVE, AN HONEST MISUNDERSTANDING. THIS WAS PROBABLY DUE TO THE NATURE OF THE MESSAGE MR. NIXON WRITES HE RECEIVED AS TO THESE BRIEFINGS. THE CUBAN SITUATION WAS, OF COURSE, DEALT WITH IN THE BRIEFINGS I GAVE SEN. KENNEDY. . . .

"MY BRIEFINGS WERE INTELLIGENCE BRIEFINGS ON THE WORLD SITUATION. THEY DID NOT COVER OUR OWN GOVERNMENT'S PLANS OR PROGRAMS FOR ACTION, OVERT OR COVERT."

IN LOS ANGELES, NIXON'S OFFICE SAID IT HAD NO COMMENT ON THE DULLES OR WHITE HOUSE STATEMENTS.

NIXON, WHO NOW IS A MEMBER OF A LOS ANGELES LAW FIRM, IS SEEKING THE REPUBLICAN NOMINATION FOR GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA.

IN HIS BOOK, THE FORMER VICE PRESIDENT SAID KENNEDY HAD FORCED HIM INTO A DILEMMA ON CUBA DURING THE CAMPAIGN. THIS WAS, HE SAID, THE ONLY TIME DURING THE RACE HE GOT ANGRY AT HIS RIVAL.

KENNEDY, SAID NIXON, CALLED FOR ACTION TO "STRENGTHEN THE NON-BATISTA DEMOCRATIC ANTI-CASTRO FORCES IN EXILE AND IN CUBA ITSELF WHO OFFER EVENTUAL HOPE OF OVERTHROWING CASTRO."

HE DID THIS, NIXON CONTENDED, AFTER HAVING BEEN BRIEFED ABOUT THE TRAINING OF CUBAN EXILES.

NIXON SAID THAT KENNEDY'S CALL FOR STRONGER ACTION PUT HIM ON THE SPOT AND FORCED HIM TO TAKE A PUBLIC STAND AT VARIANCE WITH HIS ACTUAL VIEWS BECAUSE "THE OPERATION HAD TO BE PROTECTED AT ALL COSTS. I MUST NOT SUGGEST EVEN BY IMPLICATION THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS RENDERING AID TO REBEL FORCES IN AND OUT OF CUBA. IN FACT, I MUST GO TO THE OTHER EXTREME; I MUST ATTACK THE KENNEDY PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE SUCH AID AS WRONG AND IRRESPONSIBLE BECAUSE IT WOULD VIOLATE OUR TREATY COMMITMENTS."

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AND HE DID JUST THAT, ACCORDING TO A TRANSCRIPT OF THE FOURTH KENNEDY-NIXON TELEVISION DEBATE. HE CALLED KENNEDY'S CUBAN PROPOSALS "PROBABLY THE MOST DANGEROUSLY IRRESPONSIBLE RECOMMENDATIONS" OF THE CAMPAIGN.

HE SAID IF THE UNITED STATES SUPPORTED A CUBAN INVASION "WE WOULD LOSE ALL OF OUR FRIENDS IN LATIN AMERICA, WE WOULD PROBABLY BE CONDEMNED IN THE UNITED NATIONS AND WE WOULD NOT ACCOMPLISH OUR OBJECTIVE." AND HE ADDED:

"... IT WOULD BE AN OPEN INVITATION TO MR. KHRUSHCHEV TO COME IN, TO COME INTO LATIN AMERICA AND TO ENGAGE US IN WHAT WOULD BE A CIVIL WAR, AND POSSIBLY EVEN WORSE THAN THAT."

SALINGER, IN DENYING THAT KENNEDY KNEW OF PLANS FOR THE INVASION AT THE TIME OF THE CAMPAIGN, READ THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

"THE PRESIDENT DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT INTELLIGENCE BRIEFINGS ARE A PROPER SUBJECT OF PUBLIC DEBATE, BUT IN THE LIGHT OF THE ACCOUNT IN MR. NIXON'S BOOK IT IS NECESSARY TO SAY THAT THE THEN SEN. KENNEDY WAS NOT TOLD BEFORE THE ELECTION OF 1960 OF THE TRAINING OF TROOPS OUTSIDE OF CUBA OR OF ANY PLANS FOR 'SUPPORTING AN INVASION OF CUBA.'"

"MR. NIXON'S ACCOUNT IS APPARENTLY BASED ON A MISUNDERSTANDING. SEN. KENNEDY RECEIVED TWO BRIEFINGS FROM MR. ALLEN DULLES OF THE CIA, THE FIRST ON JULY 23, 1960, AND THE SECOND ON SEPT. 19, 1960. THE TWO BRIEFINGS COVERED AN OVER-ALL REVIEW OF THE WORLD SITUATION DURING WHICH CUBA WAS MENTIONED, BUT SEN. KENNEDY WAS FIRST INFORMED OF THE OPERATION TO WHICH MR. NIXON REFERS IN A BRIEFING BY ALLEN DULLES AND RICHARD BISSELL OF THE CIA GIVEN IN PALM SPRINGS, FLA., ON NOV. 18, 1960."

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